SONIC™
-MEGA DRIVE-
#1
Archie ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
SEGA®
25th ANNIVERSARY
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC
– THE HEDGEHOG –
CLASSICALLY HEROIC

TAILS
MILES "TAILS" PROWER
YOUNG TAG-ALONG

AMY
– AMY ROSE –
ONE-TIME DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

KNUCKLES
– THE ECHIDNA –
NOT-SO-FRIENDLY RIVAL

DR. EGGMAN
EVIL GENIUS

Welcome to the Sonic Comic Universe — a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Take a blast into the past as we return to the Classic Era of Sonic!

SONIC™
- MEGA DRIVE -

THE STORY SO FAR...

HEDGEHOG HEROICS

Sonic the Hedgehog has always been there to stop **Dr. Eggman's** nasty schemes! When Dr. Eggman tried to mine the **Chaos Emeralds** from **South Island**, Sonic found them first!

When the doctor tried to launch the **Death Egg**, Sonic knocked it out of orbit! When the doctor tried to launch it again, Sonic blew the whole thing up! And when Dr. Eggman tried to take control of Little Planet, Sonic found the time to stop him and save **Amy Rose**!

The mustachioed mad man is up to something yet again, and Sonic is out to stop him!

And this time he's going to need even more than just speed to foil the doctor's scheme!

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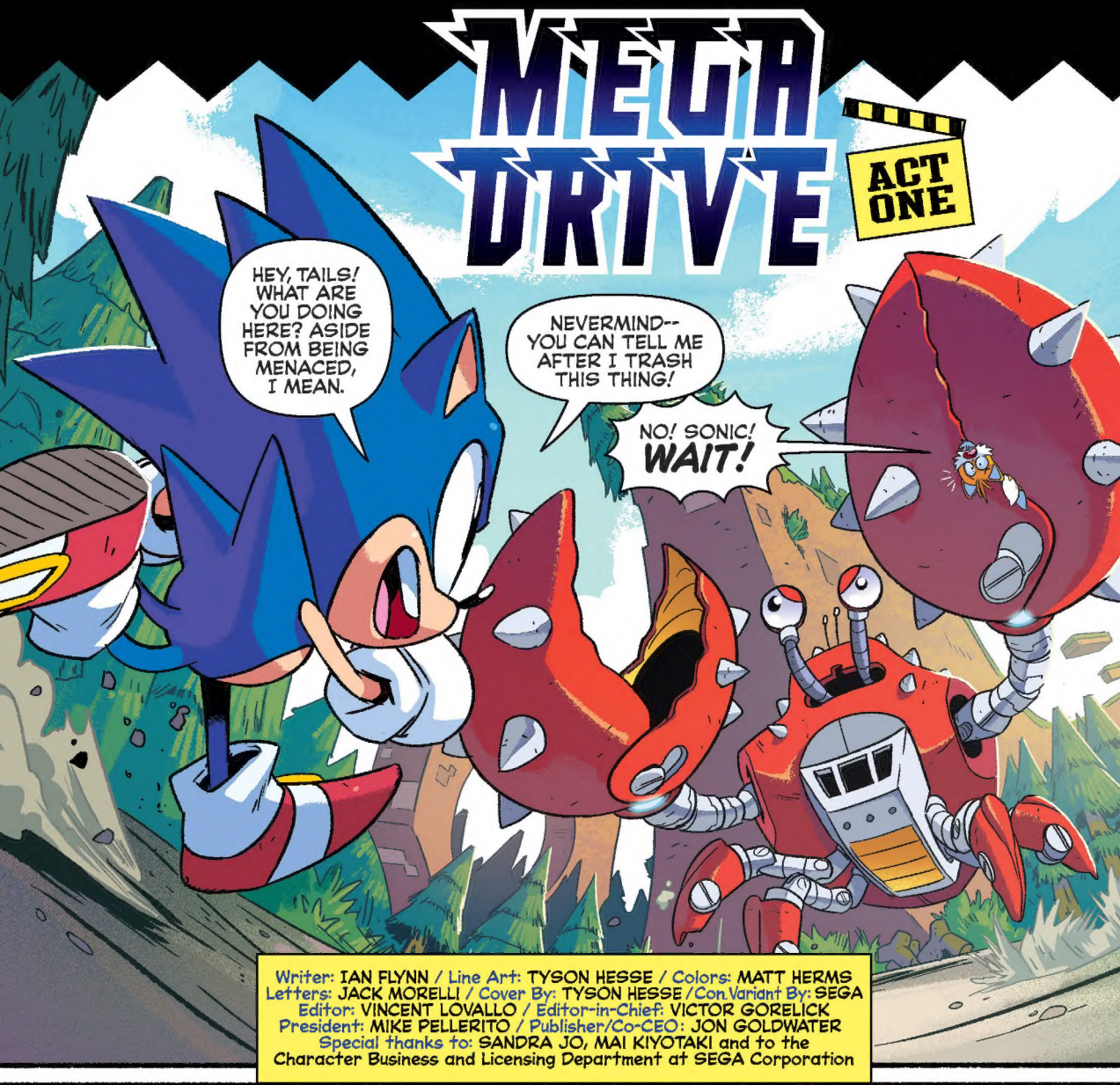
GREEN SEASIDE ZONE


MECH DRIVE
ACT ONE
HEY, TAILS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? ASIDE FROM BEING MENACED, I MEAN.
NEVERMIND-- YOU CAN TELL ME AFTER I TRASH THIS THING!
NO! SONIC! WAIT!

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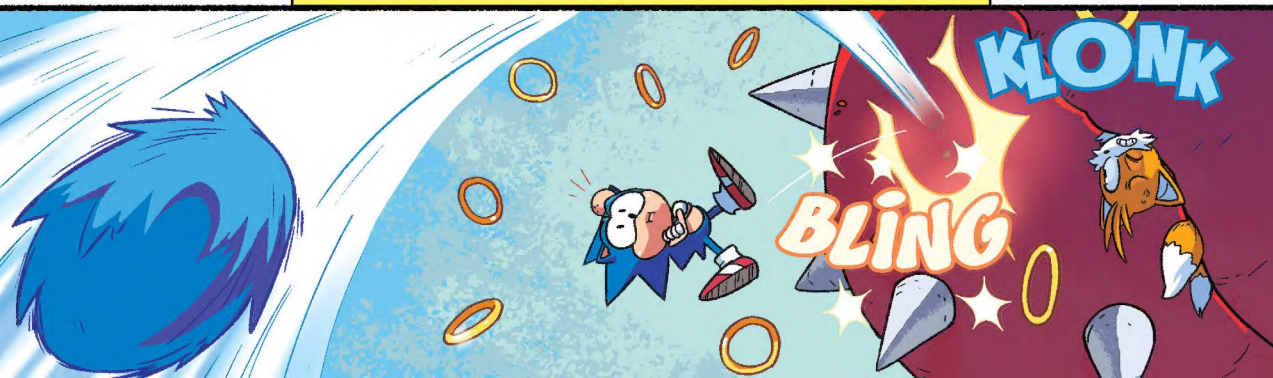
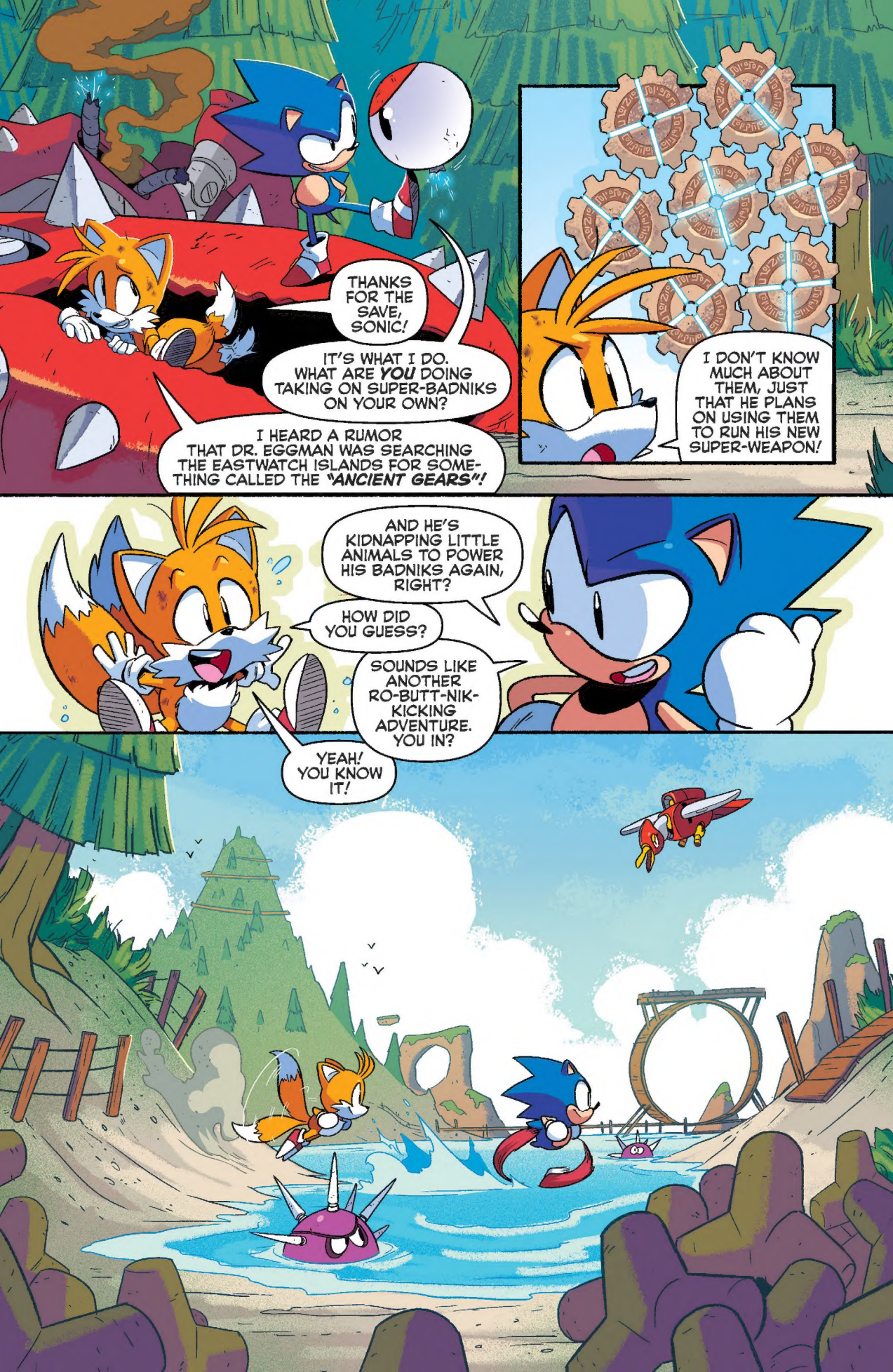
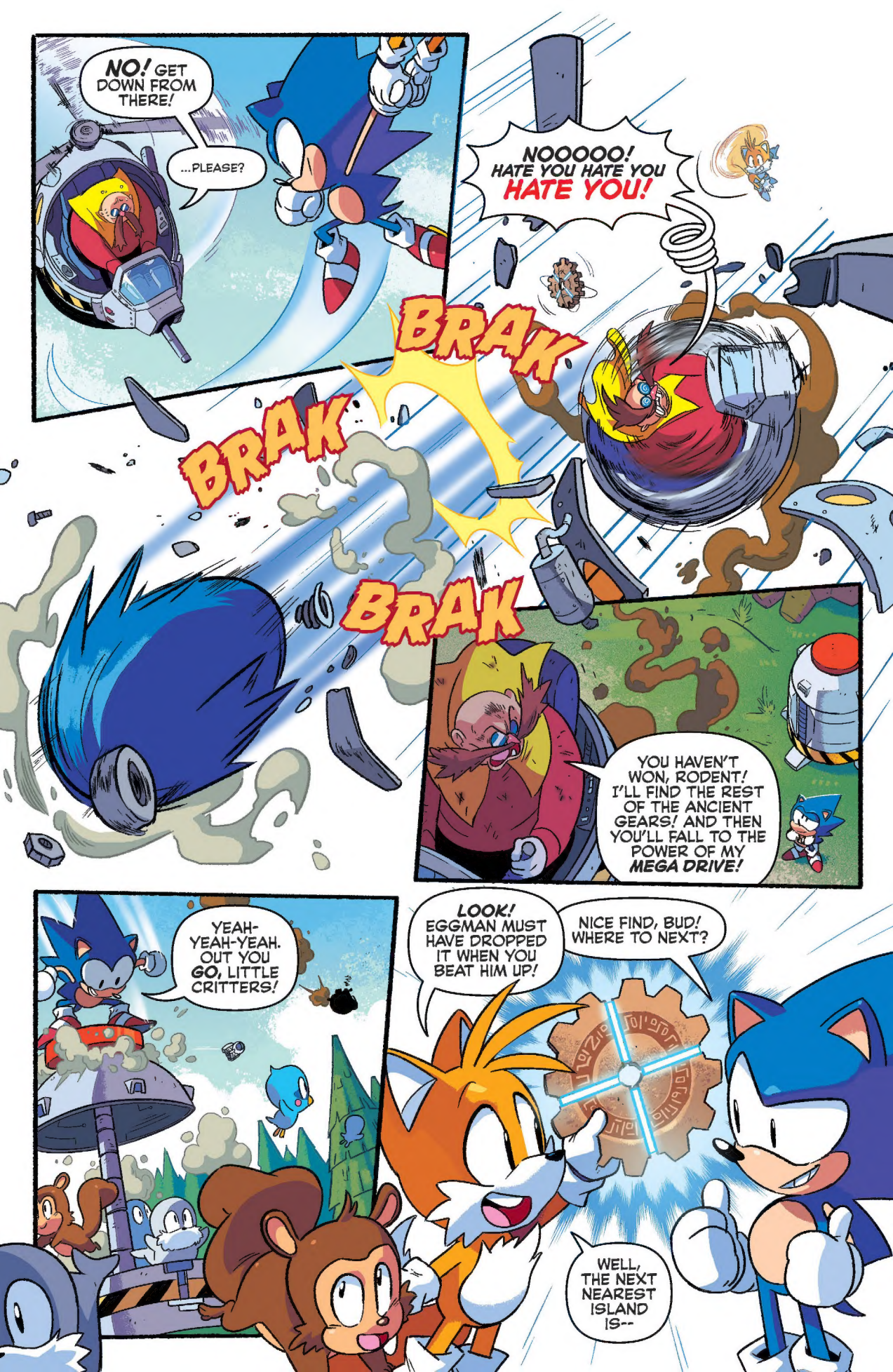


ITS ARMOR IS TOO STRONG! BUT IT MAKES IT REALLY HEAVY!
LET IT TAKE A SWING AT YOU, AND THEN GET IN CLOSE TO HIT ITS VULNERABLE EYES!
HIT THE GIANT ENEMY CRAB IN ITS WEAK SPOT FOR MASSIVE DAMAGE, Huh? TIMELESS.
WHUD
BLAMMO

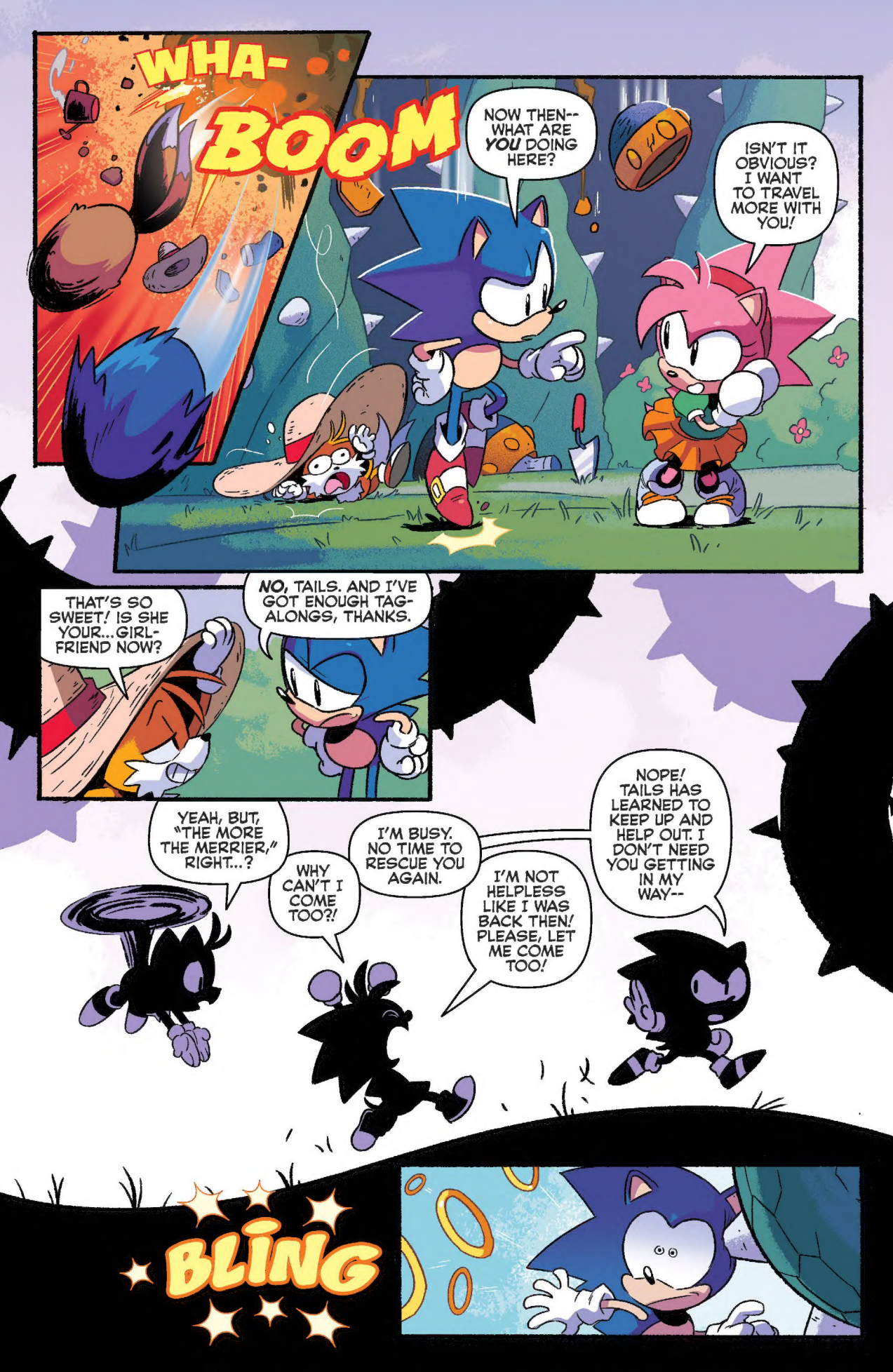

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, SONIC!
IT'S WHAT I DO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TAKING ON SUPER-BADNIKS ON YOUR OWN?
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT DR. EGGMAN WAS SEARCHING THE EASTWATCH ISLANDS FOR SOMETHING CALLED THE "ANCIENT GEARS"!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM, JUST THAT HE PLANS ON USING THEM TO RUN HIS NEW SUPER-WEAPON!
AND HE'S KIDNAPPING LITTLE ANIMALS TO POWER HIS BADNIKS AGAIN, RIGHT?
HOW DID YOU GUESS?
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER RO-BUTT-NIK-KICKING ADVENTURE. YOU IN?
YEAH! YOU KNOW IT!

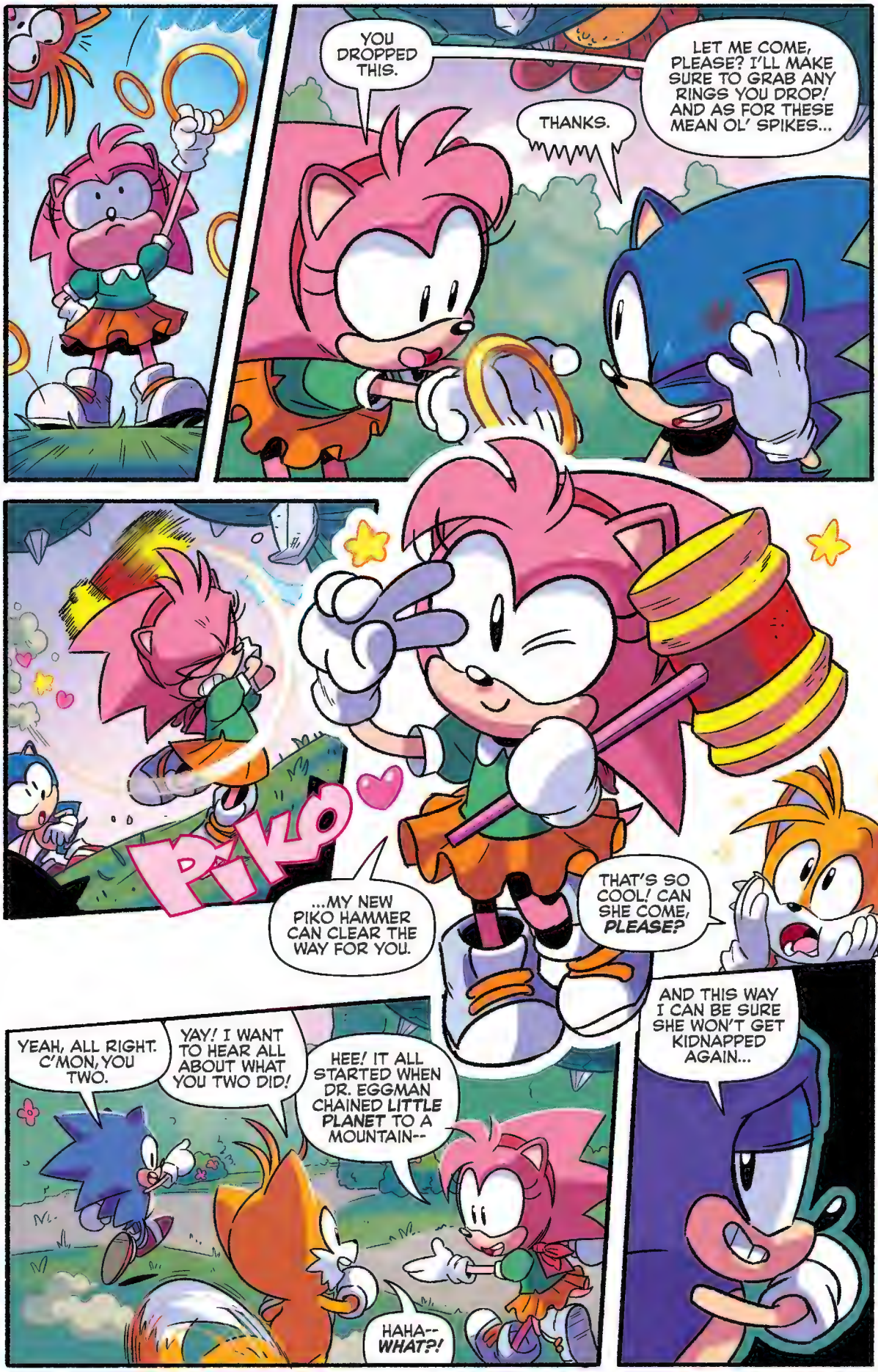
OOH-HOO-HOO!
Ahh! SUCH EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP! DON'T WORRY, LITTLE ANCIENT GEAR! I'LL FIND YOUR BUDDIES AND TOGETHER YOU'LL POWER MY LATEST, GREATEST ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION-- THE MEGA DRIVE!
GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!
SONIC?!
YOU'RE NOT RUINING MY PLANS THIS TIME! I'VE GOT AIR SUPERIORITY!
RATTA-TATTA-TAT
Oh, NO! I CAN'T JUMP THAT HIGH! WHATEVER WILL I DO TO GET UP THERE?
THAT'S YOUR CUE, GENIUS.
OH! RIGHT! SORRY! IT'S BEEN AWHILE!


NO! GET DOWN FROM THERE!
...PLEASE?
NOOOOO! HATE YOU HATE YOU HATE YOU!
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
YOU HAVEN'T WON, RODENT! I'LL FIND THE REST OF THE ANCIENT GEARS! AND THEN YOU'LL FALL TO THE POWER OF MY MEGA DRIVE!
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH. OUT YOU GO, LITTLE CRITTERS!
LOOK! EGGMAN MUST HAVE DROPPED IT WHEN YOU BEAT HIM UP!
NICE FIND, BUD! WHERE TO NEXT?
WELL, THE NEXT NEAREST ISLAND IS--

FLOWER PARK ZONE
SNAP
WATCH IT!
POW
YOU OKAY?
Y-YEAH. Y'KNOW, ASIDE FROM THE OCCASIONAL BADNIK, THIS PLACE IS REALLY NICE--
EEEEEEEEK! HEEEEEEEELP!
SOMEBODY'S IN TROUBLE!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE...

AHHH! GO AWAY!
AMY?!
SONIC! I KNEW I'D FIND YOU!
FIND ME? WE'RE THE ONES WHO HEARD--
RRUMMBLE
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

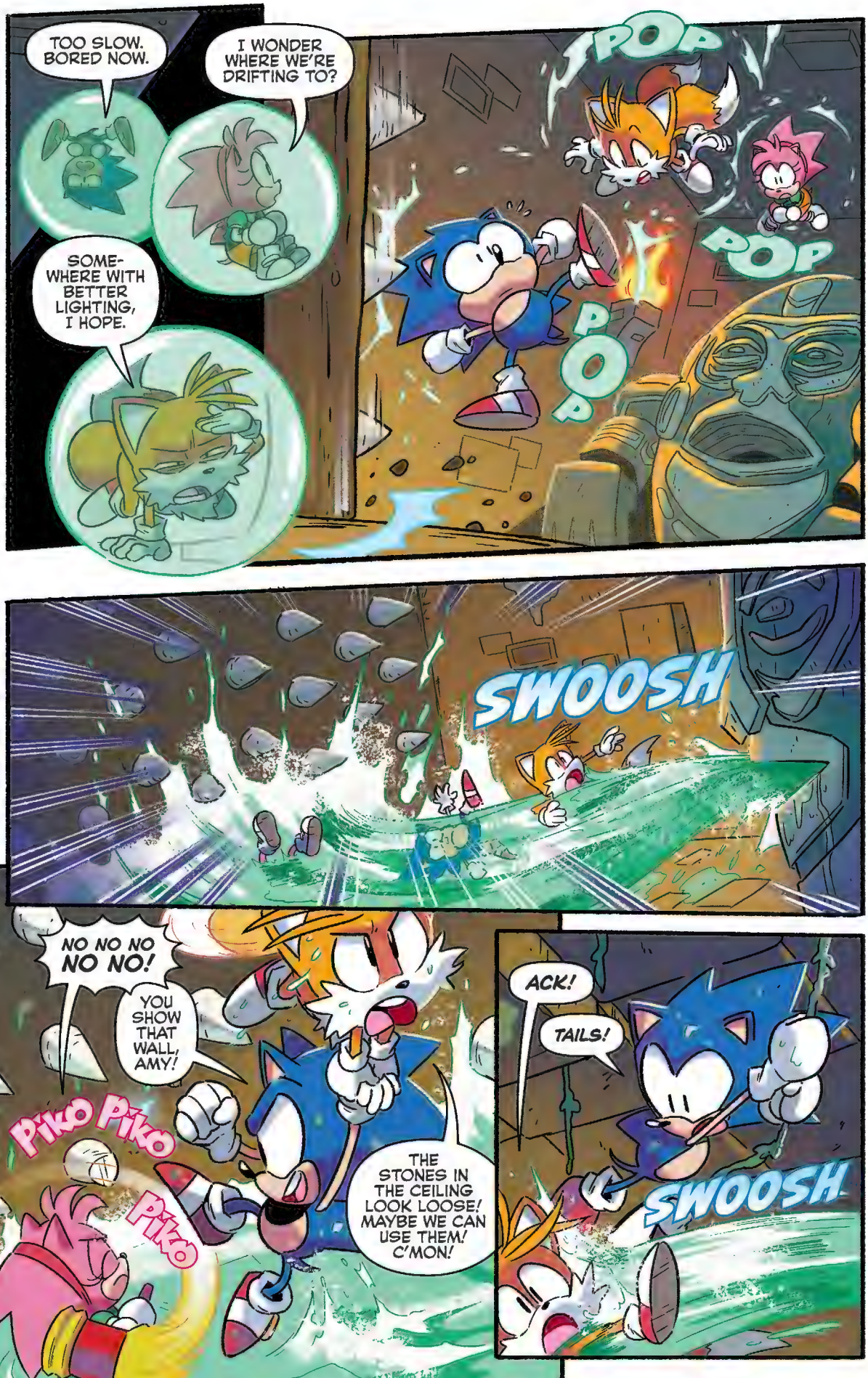

WHA-
BOOM
NOW THEN-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I WANT TO TRAVEL MORE WITH YOU!
NO, TAILS. AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH TAG-ALONGS, THANKS.
THAT'S SO SWEET! IS SHE YOUR...GIRL-FRIEND NOW?
YEAH, BUT, "THE MORE THE MERRIER," RIGHT...?
WHY CAN'T I COME TOO?!
I'M BUSY. NO TIME TO RESCUE YOU AGAIN.
I'M NOT HELPLESS LIKE I WAS BACK THEN! PLEASE, LET ME COME TOO!
NOPE! TAILS HAS LEARNED TO KEEP UP AND HELP OUT. I DON'T NEED YOU GETTING IN MY WAY--
BLING


YOU DROPPED THIS.
THANKS.
LET ME COME, PLEASE? I'LL MAKE SURE TO GRAB ANY RINGS YOU DROP! AND AS FOR THESE MEAN OL' SPIKES...
PIKO
...MY NEW PIKO HAMMER CAN CLEAR THE WAY FOR YOU.
THAT'S SO COOL! CAN SHE COME, PLEASE?
AND THIS WAY I CAN BE SURE SHE WON'T GET KIDNAPPED AGAIN...
YEAH, ALL RIGHT. C'MON, YOU TWO.
YAY! I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU TWO DID!
HEE! IT ALL STARTED WHEN DR. EGGMAN CHAINED LITTLE PLANET TO A MOUNTAIN--
HAHA-- WHAT?!

WHAT IF I CAPTURE YOU ALL AT ONCE INSTEAD?! WHA HA HA HA!
AFTER I SOFTEN YOU UP A BIT, OF COURSE!
SKYEW
ARE YOU OKAY?
SPIFFY.
WHAT DO WE DO?
THE DOC THINKS HE'S BEING CLEVER BY AMBUSHING US. I SAY WE DO SOME AMBUSHING OURSELVES!
I'LL CUT YOU UP LIKE A TOPIARY, HEDGE-HOG!
BRAK
WHAT THE--?!
BRAK

REGROUP! REGROUP!
PIKO
BRAK
YAY! I DID IT!
BOOM
THAT'S THREE ON ONE! THAT'S NOT FAIR! I'LL BE READY FOR YOU NEXT TIME!
AND I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT NEXT TIME. BANTER, RINSE, REPEAT.
THAT MAKES TWO ANCIENT GEARS. WHERE TO NEXT?
ALL RIGHT! I THINK WE CAN FIND ANOTHER ONE IN--

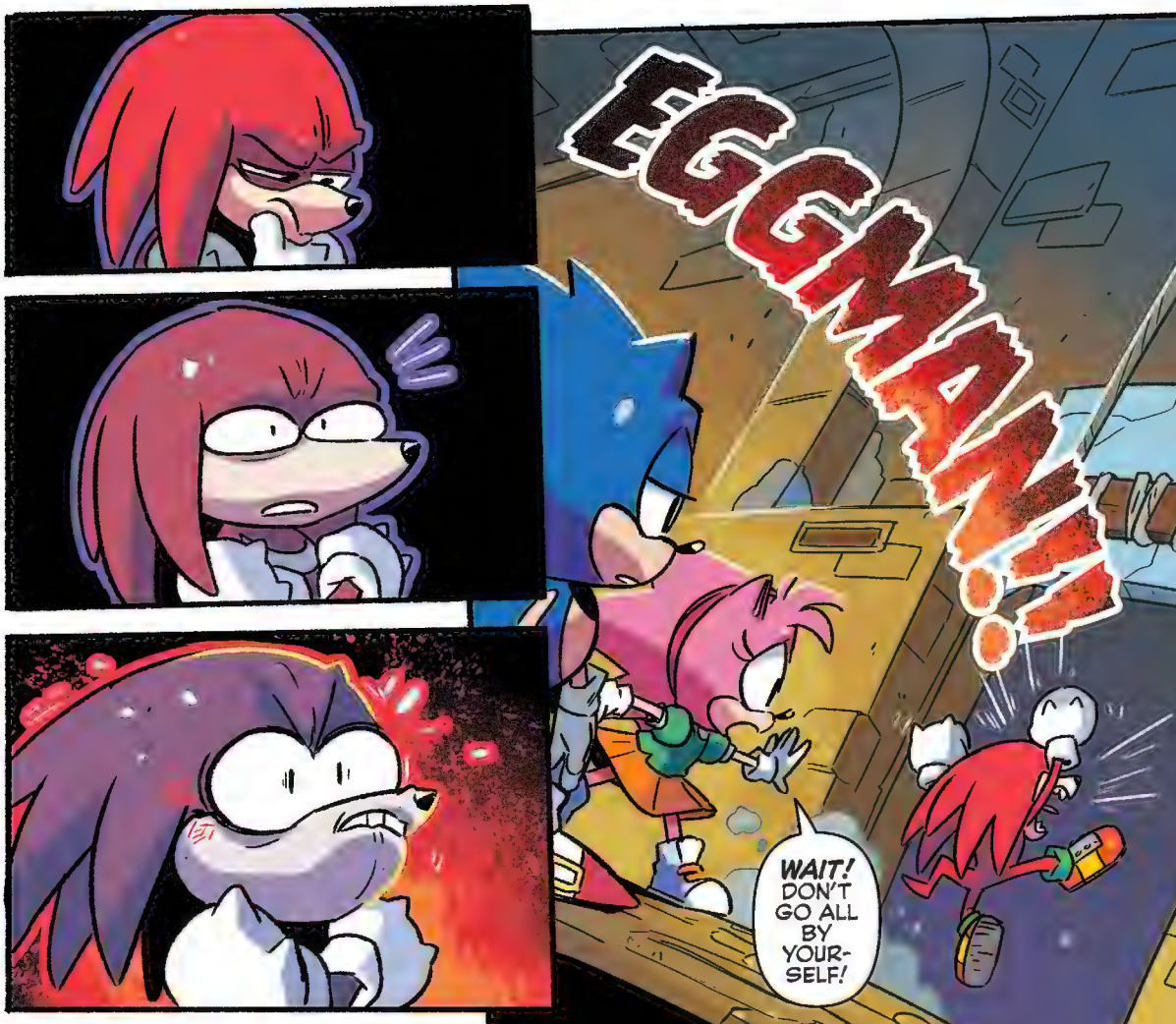
CASCADE TEMPLE ZONE
THERE YOU ARE! GLAD YOU CAUGHT UP. THINK YOU CAN FLY ME UP TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE RUINS?
SPLOOSH
UGH...IT LOOKS A BIT TOO FAR FOR ME, ESPECIALLY CARRYING YOUR WEIGHT.
EXCUSE ME?
HOP INTO ONE OF THESE BUBBLES! THEY'RE AMAZING!
SOUNDS GOOD. BUBBLES DON'T COMPLAIN, RIGHT?
I'M JUST SAYING!
MAYBE LAY OFF THE CHILI DOGS A LITTLE...


TOO SLOW. BORED NOW.
I WONDER WHERE WE'RE DRIFTING TO?
SOME-WHERE WITH BETTER LIGHTING, I HOPE.
POP
POP
POP
SWOOSH
NO NO NO NO NO!
YOU SHOW THAT WALL, AMY!
PIKO PIKO
PIKO
THE STONES IN THE CEILING LOOK LOOSE! MAYBE WE CAN USE THEM! C'MON!
ACK!
TAILS!
SWOOSH

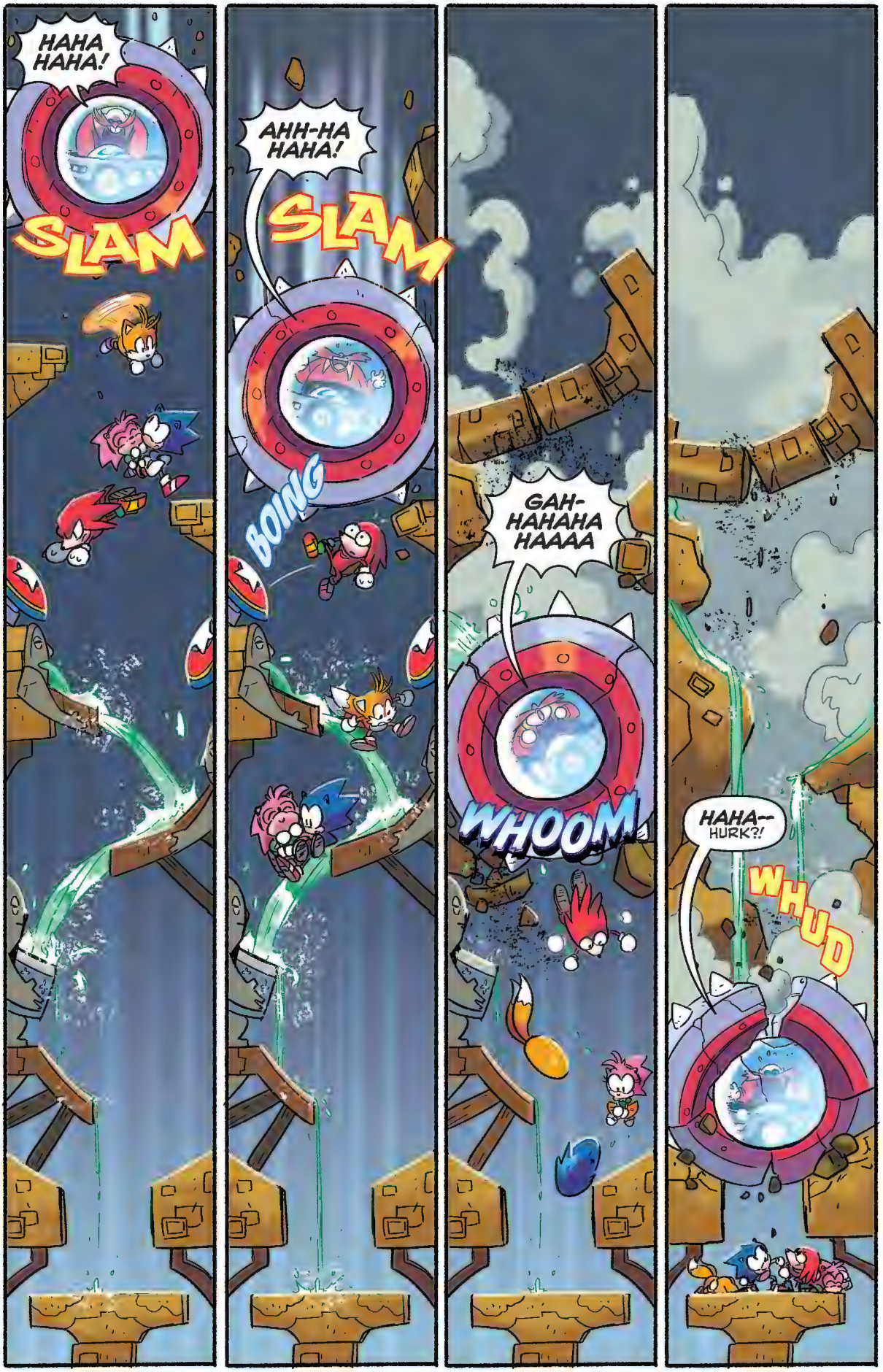
PIKO
TH-THANKS, AMY!
MY PLEASURE!
RRUMMBLE

KNUCKLES!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, JERK?!
ENOUGH GAMES! GIVE UP THE CHAOS EMERALDS, SONIC!
WHAT?!
HUH...?
HERE WE GO AGAIN...
DON'T PLAY COY. DR. EGGMAN EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO ME...
GET LOST, EGGMAN. YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.
N-N-NOW JUST A MINUTE, KNUCKLES! I'M A CHANGED MAN! REFORMED! AND I NEED YOUR HELP! IN FACT, YOU'RE THE WORLD'S ONLY HOPE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU SAW WHAT SUPER SONIC DID TO ME AND MY DEATH EGG, RIGHT? WELL HE HASN'T STOPPED SINCE! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE STRONG ENOUGH, SMART ENOUGH AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO STOP HIM!
IF SONIC'S TRULY LOST IT, THEN I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
Oh, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE TO LAY YOUR TRAP FOR HIM. UNTIL THEN, LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY LOOKING AFTER THE MASTER EMERALD?
SOUNDS GOOD! I'M GLAD YOU CLEANED UP YOUR ACT!

SO...ARE YOU GOING TO SURRENDER THE CHAOS EMERALDS OR WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE THEM. IF I DID, I'D HAVE TURNED INTO SUPER SONIC BY NOW.
B-BUT EGGMAN SAID...
HE'S GATHERING RELICS CALLED THE "ANCIENT GEARS" TO RUN HIS NEWEST MACHINE! HE PROBABLY WANTED THE MASTER EMERALD TO POWER IT!
YOU DONE GOOFED, KNUCKLE-HEAD.


EGGMAN!!
WAIT! DON'T GO ALL BY YOUR-SELF!

TAKE IT EASY! FLYING OFF THE HANDLE WON'T GET THE MASTER EMERALD BACK!
BUT WHAT IF HE-- I DUNNO--DROPS AND SHATTERS IT? HOW WOULD I FIND ALL THE PIECES?! IT'D BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S A PRETTY RESILIENT ROCK, DUDE. I DON'T THINK IT CAN BE BROKEN. SO JUST CHILL A SECOND AND--
SLAM
OH-HO-HO! REST ASSURED, MY GULLIBLE FRIEND, I'M TAKING EXTRA GOOD CARE OF THE MASTER EMERALD!
AND NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF YOU!
S-SONIC...?
HEAD DOWN! MOVE IT!

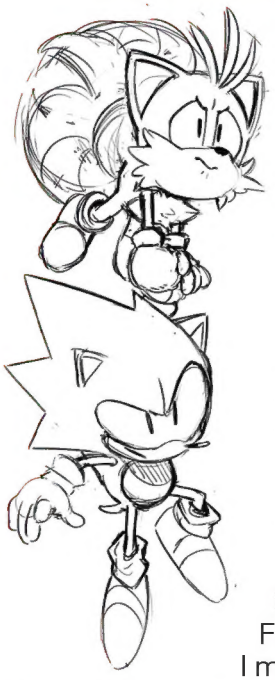

HAHA HAHA!
SLAM
AHH-HA HAHA!
SLAM
BOING
GAH-HAHAHA HAAAA
WHOOM
HAHA-- HURK?!
WHUD

...NOW LET'S JUST TAKE A MOMENT AND BE CALM, RATIONAL PEOPLE ABOUT THIS...
BRAK
RKO
BRAK
BRAK
S-SAVAGES...
THERE'RE STILL MORE ANCIENT GEARS TO FIND, AND I'M SURE EGGMAN ISN'T GOING TO GIVE UP. WHADDAYA SAY, KNUX? WANT TO TAG ALONG?
I NEED TO FIND THE MASTER EMERALD. ANGEL ISLAND ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE NOW, AND I GUESS I DO OWE YOU GUYS...
...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ON A GOOD TREASURE HUNT IN A WHILE. SURE-- I'M IN!
COOL! JUST MAKE SURE YOU KEEP UP!

POOMF
LET'S GO, GUYS! THERE'S MORE ADVENTURES TO BE HAD!
THANKS FOR JOINING US ON THIS ALL NEW CLASSIC ERA ADVENTURE! THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN SONIC MEGA DRIVE--THE NEXT LEVEL-- COMING THIS FALL!
UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN CATCH EVEN MORE SONIC GOODNESS WITH SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

Letter from the EDITOR

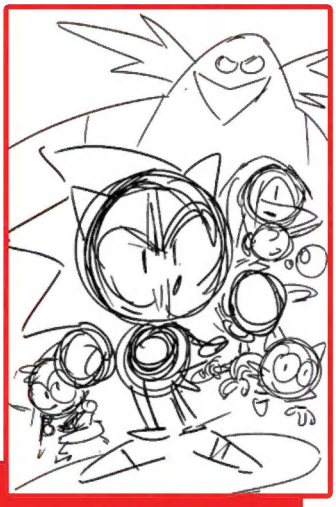
Editorial commentary that has been classically trained!



CREATIVE TEAM GOT THROUGH ACT ONE!

Hey, Sonic fans! Was that a blast or what?! Whether you are a hardcore Sonic fan, Sonic comic reader or just getting into the Sonic franchise for the first time, it is our hope that *Sonic: Mega Drive* was as fun and exciting for you as it was for us!

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Blue Blur, and we wanted to make sure we did something extra special for our boy. What better way to honor Sonic than by going back to his roots and putting a new spin on it?



Sonic comics writer Ian Flynn knows Sonic. I mean he REALLY knows Sonic. When I called Ian about doing a special "Classic"-styled story, he pretty much had it figured out already. We would tell the story of a lost game in Sonic's history. Something familiar, but new. When the script came in, I had a big dumb grin on my face the whole time I was reading it, and I just kept thinking, "he nailed it!"

ABOVE AND RIGHT: Sonic takes center stage in these cover thumbnail sketches by *Sonic: Mega Drive* artist Tyson Hesse! The top-most image served as the model for the final cover.

Of course, a comic isn't much of a comic without the artwork. It was a no-brainer to have Tyson Hesse, Matt Herms and Jack Morelli aboard this Classic Sonic bandwagon. Tyson's expressiveness and high energy fit the story to a T. From the moment Tyson sent in his character studies (as seen on this very page) I knew we were in for a real treat. Partnered with the gorgeous and vibrant colors of Matt and the crisp and dynamic lettering from Jack, the world of *Mega Drive* was brought to life.

Words cannot describe how proud I am of this team. Thank you all. I'm looking forward to what the *Next Level* brings! Also, a very special thanks to those at SEGA for their help, support and kindness on this very special project.

Finally, a big THANKS to you, the fans! We do it for you!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

OFF PANEL
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

SECRET -ORIGINS- & KNUCKLES
SCRIPT: RON CACACE ART: VINCENT LOVALLO

THE END

SONIC™
-MEGA DRIVE-
THE NEXT LEVEL
TO BE CONTINUED...
...NOVEMBER 2016

Sonic spins into a brand new, Classic-styled, SUPER SPECIAL one-shot *Mega Drive*! Join Sonic, Tails, Knuckles and Amy Rose on a brand new adventure—set after the fall of the Death Egg!

The nefarious Dr. Eggman is trying to build a new engine of destruction: the MEGA DRIVE, and it's up to Sonic and his whole crew to stop the mad doctor and save the day! Join Sonic and his friends in this special commemorative issue celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Blue Blur!

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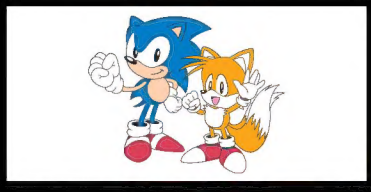

25th ANNIVERSARY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG